

[4910-13-U]

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39 [66 FR 31836 6/13/2001]

[Docket No. 2000-NM-268-AD; Amendment 39-12258; AD 2001-12-03]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 767-300 Series Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This amendment adopts a new airworthiness directive (AD), applicable to certain Boeing Model 767-300 series airplanes, that requires a one-time general visual inspection to find chafing and determine adequate clearance of certain wire bundles in the ceiling panel near the main passenger door, and corrective actions. The actions specified by this AD are intended to prevent damage to the wires in the bundles due to contact between the bundles and the adjacent ceiling support bracket. Such damage could result in electrical arcing, smoke, or fire in the cabin, and failure of certain systems essential to safe flight and landing of the airplane. This action is intended to address the identified unsafe condition.

**DATES:** Effective July 18, 2001.

The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in the regulations is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of July 18, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** The service information referenced in this AD may be obtained from Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, P.O. Box 3707, Seattle, Washington 98124-2207. This information may be examined at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transport Airplane Directorate, Rules Docket, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Elias Natsiopoulos, Aerospace Engineer, ANM-130S, FAA, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056; telephone (425) 227-1279; fax (425) 227-1181.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A proposal to amend part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) to include an airworthiness directive (AD) that is applicable to certain Boeing Model 767-300 series airplanes was published in the **Federal Register** on March 9, 2001 (66 FR 14094). That action proposed to require a one-time general visual inspection to find chafing and determine adequate clearance of certain wire bundles in the ceiling panel near the main passenger door, and corrective actions.

### **Comments**

Interested persons have been afforded an opportunity to participate in the making of this amendment. No comments were submitted in response to the proposal or the FAA's determination of the cost to the public.

### **Conclusion**

The FAA has determined that air safety and the public interest require the adoption of the rule as proposed.

## **Cost Impact**

There are approximately 135 Model 767-300 series airplanes of the affected design in the worldwide fleet. The FAA estimates that 53 airplanes of U.S. registry will be affected by this AD.

It will take approximately 1 work hour per airplane to accomplish the required inspection, at an average labor rate of \$60 per work hour. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the inspection required by this AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$3,180, or \$60 per airplane.

It will take approximately 2 work hours per airplane to accomplish the required repair or replacement, at an average labor rate of \$60 per work hour. Based on these figures, the cost impact of the repair or replacement required by this AD on U.S. operators is estimated to be \$6,360, or \$120 per airplane.

The cost impact figures discussed above are based on assumptions that no operator has yet accomplished any of the requirements of this AD action, and that no operator would accomplish those actions in the future if this AD were not adopted. The cost impact figures discussed in AD rulemaking actions represent only the time necessary to perform the specific actions actually required by the AD. These figures typically do not include incidental costs, such as the time required to gain access and close up, planning time, or time necessitated by other administrative actions.

## **Regulatory Impact**

The regulations adopted herein will not have a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national Government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Therefore, it is determined that this final rule does not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify that this action (1) is not a “significant regulatory action” under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a “significant rule” under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979); and (3) will not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. A final evaluation has been prepared for this action and it is contained in the Rules Docket. A copy of it may be obtained from the Rules Docket at the location provided under the caption “ADDRESSES.”

## **List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39**

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

## **Adoption of the Amendment**

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the Federal Aviation Administration amends part 39 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 39) as follows:

### **PART 39 - AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES**

1. The authority citation for part 39 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701.

§ 39.13 [Amended]

2. Section 39.13 is amended by adding the following new airworthiness directive:

# AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVE



Aircraft Certification Service  
Washington, DC

U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

*We post ADs on the internet at "av-info.faa.gov"*

The following Airworthiness Directive issued by the Federal Aviation Administration in accordance with the provisions of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 39, applies to an aircraft model of which our records indicate you may be the registered owner. Airworthiness Directives affect aviation safety and are regulations which require immediate attention. You are cautioned that no person may operate an aircraft to which an Airworthiness Directive applies, except in accordance with the requirements of the Airworthiness Directive (reference 14 CFR part 39, subpart 39.3).

**2001-12-03 BOEING:** Amendment 39-12258. Docket 2000-NM-268-AD.

Applicability: Model 767-300 series airplanes, as listed in Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 767-33A0085, Revision 2, dated December 7, 2000, certificated in any category.

Note 1: This AD applies to each airplane identified in the preceding applicability provision, regardless of whether it has been modified, altered, or repaired in the area subject to the requirements of this AD. For airplanes that have been modified, altered, or repaired so that the performance of the requirements of this AD is affected, the owner/operator must request approval for an alternative method of compliance in accordance with paragraph (b) of this AD. The request should include an assessment of the effect of the modification, alteration, or repair on the unsafe condition addressed by this AD; and, if the unsafe condition has not been eliminated, the request should include specific proposed actions to address it.

Compliance: Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously.

To prevent damage to the wires in certain wire bundles due to contact between the bundles and the adjacent ceiling support bracket, which could result in electrical arcing, smoke, or fire in the cabin, and failure of certain systems essential to safe flight and landing of the airplane, accomplish the following:

## **One-Time Inspection/Corrective Actions**

(a) Accomplish the requirements in paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this AD, as applicable, at the times specified.

(1) Within 6 months after the effective date of this AD: Do a one-time general visual inspection to find chafing and determine adequate clearance of the wire bundles above the F4/G2 galley, per Figure 1 or Figure 3, as applicable, of the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 767-33A0085, Revision 2, dated December 7, 2000.

Note 2: For the purposes of this AD, a general visual inspection is defined as: "A visual examination of an interior or exterior area, installation, or assembly to find obvious damage, failure, or irregularity. This level of inspection is made under normally available lighting conditions such as daylight, hangar lighting, flashlight, or drop-light and may require removal or opening of access panels or doors. Stands, ladders, or platforms may be required to gain proximity to the area being checked."

(2) If chafing and/or inadequate clearance is found: Before further flight, repair or replace damaged wires in the wire bundles; install a bracket assembly on the wire bundle support bracket; install nut spacer plates; and re-route the wire bundles away from the ceiling support bracket, as applicable, as specified by and per Figure 2 or Figure 3, as applicable, of the Accomplishment Instructions of the alert service bulletin.

Note 3: Accomplishment of the one-time inspection and corrective actions before the effective date of this AD per Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 767-33A0085, dated May 11, 2000; or Revision 1, dated August 31, 2000, is considered acceptable for compliance with paragraph (a) of this AD.

#### **Alternative Methods of Compliance**

(b) An alternative method of compliance or adjustment of the compliance time that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used if approved by the Manager, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), FAA. Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, Seattle ACO.

Note 4: Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Seattle ACO.

#### **Special Flight Permits**

(c) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with sections 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate the airplane to a location where the requirements of this AD can be accomplished.

#### **Incorporation by Reference**

(d) The actions shall be done in accordance with Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 767-33A0085, Revision 2, dated December 7, 2000. This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. Copies may be obtained from Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, P.O. Box 3707, Seattle, Washington 98124-2207. Copies may be inspected at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

#### **Effective Date**

(e) This amendment becomes effective on July 18, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elias Natsiopoulos, Aerospace Engineer, ANM-130S, FAA, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington 98055-4056; telephone (425) 227-1279; fax (425) 227-1181.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on June 4, 2001.

Donald L. Riggin, Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.